

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in the application, and claims 1-12 were examined. The Examiner rejects claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Adachi et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,682,070 (hereinafter "Adachi"). Additionally, the Examiner objects to the specification. Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 1-12 and overcome the objection to the specification for at least the following exemplary reasons.

II. Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

A. Claim 1

Claim 1 stand rejected under § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Adachi. In addition to various cosmetic/editorial changes, Applicants amend claim 1 to further clarify that the intermediate connecting member is distinct from a circuit board of the AC generator. The Examiner asserts that Adachi discloses an intermediate connecting member as a connection terminal 175g. *See, e.g.*, col. 9, lines 48-62 and Fig. 2 of Adachi. However, the connection terminal 175g is part of the circuit board 17. *See, e.g.*, Fig. 2 of Adachi. Thus, even assuming *arguendo* that the Examiner's assertion is accurate, Adachi still fails to disclose "an intermediate connecting member distinct from . . . a circuit board of said AC generator", as recited in claim 1. *Cf, e.g.*, Fig. 7 of Adachi and Applicants' Fig. 3. Thus, because Adachi fails to disclose each and every feature recited in claim 1, claim 1 is not anticipated by Adachi.

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B. Claims 2-12

Claims 2-12 are not anticipated by Adachi at least by virtue of their dependency.

III. Formal Matters

A. Priority

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, including receipt of the priority document submitted on February 16, 2001, on or before the date of the next Action. ✓

B. Information Disclosure Statements

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide a signed and initialed copy of the IDS filed on February 16, 2001 and the IDS filed on December 12, 2001, thereby indicating consideration of the references cited therein, on or before the date of the next Action.

C. Form PTO-892

The Form 892 attached to the Office Action contains several errors. In particular, the date of Adachi should read 10-1997 (not 11-1997), the date of Shichijyo et al. should read 8-2001 (not 8-2002), the date of Ihata should read 03-2001 (not 3-2002), and the date of Asao et al. should read 03-2001 (not 3-2002). The Examiner is kindly requested to make these corrections of record in the file.

D. Abstract

The Examiner objects to the Abstract because it is too long (*i.e.*, exceeds 150 words). Furthermore, the Examiner indicates that the Abstract should use language that is clear and

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concise and not repeat information given in the title or contain legal phraseology. Applicants amend the Abstract to overcome the Examiner's objections. Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the object to the Abstract.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 25, 2002

APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Please amend the paragraph that runs from page 4, line 29 to page 5, line 1 as follows:

Further, since the conductor portions forming the neutral point junction 22 are encased within the insulation tube 25 and laid on and along the coil end portions 162 to be subsequently fixed by a ~~varnish~~varnish, a heat radiation property of these conductor portions ~~are~~is poor when compared with the conductors of other winding portions, incurring high temperature rise. Consequently, thermal deterioration of these conductor portions as well as the adjacent conductor portions is promoted, providing a major factor for degradation of the durability of the stator as a whole.

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A vehicle-onboard AC generator, comprising:

a stator comprised of a stator core and a stator winding assembly including a plurality of stator windings;

a rotor disposed in ~~a state enclosed by~~ said stator core; ~~and~~

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a rectifier device for rectifying an AC power ~~taken out~~ from said stator winding assembly; and

an intermediate connecting member distinct from said rectifier device and a circuit board of said AC generator,

wherein said intermediate connecting member is disposed on said stator at a position offset laterally from the center axis of the stator,

wherein in said stator, a plurality of outgoing conductors forming output conductor end portions and connecting conductor end portions, respectively, are brought out substantially in parallel with a center axis of said stator core,

wherein said connecting conductor end portions are connected to ~~an intermediate connecting member provided independently from said rectifier device and disposed on said stator at a position offset laterally from the center axis thereof,~~ said intermediate connecting member, said stator windings being interconnected in a predetermined connection pattern through ~~the medium of said intermediate connecting member,~~ and

wherein said output conductor end portions ~~through which~~ for outputting said AC power ~~is taken out~~ are connected to said rectifier device.

IN THE ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE:

The abstract is changed as follows:

~~A vehicle onboard~~ An AC generator of a structure which allows the assembling assembly of a stator ~~of the AC generator thereof~~ to be easily automatized for rationalization of AC ~~generator the~~ manufacturing process, while ensuring suppression of heat generation ~~as well as~~

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and providing an enhanced cooling function during operation of the generator. ~~A~~ The stator (8)
~~is constituted by a stator~~ includes a core (15) and a ~~stator-winding assembly including a plurality~~
~~of having stator windings (16).~~ A rotor (7) is ~~disposed, being enclosed by the stator core (15).~~ A
rectifier device (12) ~~is provided for rectifying~~ rectifies an AC power taken out from the ~~stator~~
winding assembly (16). In the stator (8), ~~a plurality of outgoing conductors forming~~ form output
conductor end portions (~~a1; a2, b1; b2, and c1; c2~~) and connecting conductor end portions (~~Na1,~~
~~Na2, Nb1, Nb2, Nc1, and Nc2~~), respectively, which are brought out substantially in-parallel with
~~a to the core's center axis of the stator core (15).~~ The connecting conductor end portions (~~Na1,~~
~~Na2, Nb1, Nb2, Nc1, and Nc2~~) are connected to ~~an intermediate~~ a connecting member (~~30; 31;~~
~~32; 33; 34~~) provided separately distinct from the rectifier device (12) and ~~stationarily disposed on~~
~~the stator (8) at a position offset laterally from the stator's center axis thereof.~~ The stator
windings (16) are interconnected in a predetermined connection pattern through the ~~medium of~~
~~the intermediate~~ connecting member. The output conductor end portions, ~~(a1, a2, b1, b2, c1,~~
~~and c2)~~ through which the AC power is taken out, are connected to the rectifier device (12).